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CONSUMER TIME

SAVING FUEL AT HOME

NETWORK: NEC

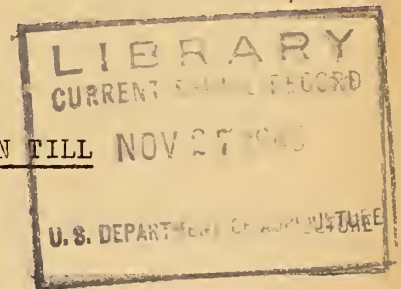
DATE: October 27, 1945

ORIGIN: WRC

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(Produced by the U. S. Department of Agriculture...this script is for reference only...and may not be broadcast without special permission. The title CONSUMER TIME is restricted to network broadcast of the program....presented for more than twelve years in the interest of consumers.)

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1. SOUND: CASH REGISTER RINGS TWICE...MONEY IN TILL
2. JOHN: It's CONSUMER TIME!
3. SOUND: CASH REGISTER...CLOSE DRAWER
4. ANNCR: During the next fifteen minutes the National Broadcasting Company and its affiliated independent stations make their facilities available as a public service for the presentation of CONSUMER TIME by the U. S. Department of Agriculture.
5. SOUND: THE WILD WINTER WIND HOWLING ABOUT THE HOUSE.
6. FREYMAN: (WITH A SHUDDER NOISE LIKE BRRR) T'ain't a fit day out for man nor beast, Johnny! For goodness sake, shut that door!
7. SOUND: DOOR SLAMS SHUT AND WIND ABRUPTLY CUT
8. JOHN: (WITH A LAUGH) What's the matter, Mrs. Freyman! It's a little early to be shivering in the winter wind, isn't it?
9. FREYMAN: Johnny...the cold breeze that just blew through here...was a sort of advance notice, you might say. A reminder that it's time to take up a very serious and very important matter.
10. JOHN: The matter of keeping warm this winter.
11. FREYMAN: And keeping warmth inside your house.

12. JOHN: Would you say there's going to be another fuel shortage this winter, Mrs. Freyman?
13. FREYMAN: I'd say simply this, Johnny...that people in many parts of the country may not be able to get their favorite kind of fuel...their favorite size of coal, for instance, in the amount they want.
14. JOHN: And so they should take what they can get...is that it?
15. FREYMAN: Well...I think the best thing to do is follow your dealer's advice. If he says you'd better take what he has right then, and not risk waiting for another kind, perhaps that's the best thing to do.
16. JOHN: And then you wouldn't find yourself with an empty coal bin, along about that cold windy time of March.
17. FREYMAN: Right, Johnny. But of course, it's always important to save heat...no matter how much fuel you have on hand.
18. JOHN: Sure...that's just plain thrifty. You can save substantial money by stuffing up the cracks...nailing on storm windows ...cleaning out the furnace, and by many, many other little things...
19. FREYMAN: Which we're going to tell about today.
20. JOHN: Now to tell our story, suppose we take the case of the Spices.
21. FREYMAN: Mr. and Mrs. Harry Spice.
22. JOHN: Now Harry Spice is a fellow, who isn't exactly what you'd call handy around the house. I mean he's not one for scurrying around with a hammer and a screwdriver, mending shutters.. tightening hinges...or tacking down carpets.
23. FREYMAN: And Mrs. Spice is certainly not overly concerned with the small details of life's necessities. In fact they bore her. I mean, you know..."So the pantry window's broken stuff a newspaper in it." That sort of thing.

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24. JOHN: They're great people, the Spices. With winter coming on they're quite a sight.
25. FREYMAN: For instance, the local fuel dealer...will patiently call up (as he has been all summer) to remind them that they'd better order their fuel as soon as possible. Mrs. Spice will answer the phone and she'll tell him...she'll say...
(VERY SLIGHT FADE) (EXAGGERATED) Oh...oh yes, I suppose we must do that. Yes, it is almost cold enough for a fire...
Mmmm Hmmm. What kind of fuel do we use...(SUDDENLY CALLING)
Harry! What kind of fuel do we use, coal or oil or what?
(NOT WAITING...TO PHONE) Oh, oh yes, of course you're right! (LITTLE LAUGH) You certainly have a good memory.
After all summer too. What? Oh yes, I suppose we must order some right away. Now I'll tell you, I would like to wait until a little later, because I want to have the cellar whitewashed. I do think whitewashed cellars are so nice, don't you? I mean, and then of course we'd rather wait until next payday...I see. Well, then I guess we just have to take our chances with the rest of them...(FADING OUT ON THIS)
26. JOHN: And then take Mr. Spice. Why he believes that a man's just plain crazy to go tearing around doing things today that he could just as well do, say...Monday or Tuesday. In fact, he can't understand his neighbor, George, who's always busyin' himself about the house...working away in the back yard, nailing and hammering all day Saturday...(VERY SLIGHT FADE)
27. SOUND: UNDER...NO PAUSE...HAMMERING
28. JOHN: For goodness sake there George, you'll be old before your time!

29. SOUND: HAMMERING OUT
30. GEORGE: (PROJECTS) Hey? What? What'd you say, Harry?
31. JOHN: (SORT OF DRAWL) I said you'd be old before your time. What' that you're building.
32. SOUND: COUPLE OF HAMMERINGS BEHIND NOW AND AGAIN.
33. GEORGE: Oh, I'm not building anything. Just sort of getting the storm windows in shape...
34. JOHN: Why George, the sky's blue and the sun's shinning. Not a cloud in sight, and you're building storm windows.
35. GEORGE: They're not for now. They're for later. For winter. October nearly over, you know, Harry.
36. JOHN: Yep, so it is. So it is.
37. GEORGE: And I want these windows up before I start a fire in the furnace. Say, you know, these windows really keep the heat in. I saved a whale of a lot of fuel last winter.
38. JOHN: That so?
39. GEORGE: Sure did. House was snug as a bug.
40. JOHN: In a rug, I suppose.
41. GEORGE: Sure was. You bet!
42. JOHN: I never could figure how being in a rug made a bug so comfortable. Personally I wouldn't like it. (LOUDER) Say, George, I suppose you're going to nail that wooden vestibule on your front door again this winter.
43. GEORGE: Oh yes, I'll do that all right. T'isn't the prettiest contraption in the world, but it sure keeps the wind out when you open the front door.
44. JOHN: You sure are a great one for work. Never saw anything like the way you knock yourself out. You'll be gray before your time, Georgie, just like I was telling you...(FADE ON THIS)

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45. FREYMAN: Yes, the Spices aren't exactly concerned about cold weather. When winter finally comes, they manage to keep warm one way or another. It's a little difficult, but they manage...(FADE INTO)
46. SOUND: WIND, SLEET, BLIZZARD NOISES. FADE DOWN UNDER.
47. FREYMAN: Oh...oh Harry...listen to that wind.
48. JOHN: Yep, it's kinda blowing up out there.
49. FREYMAN: I'm simply freezing...freezing to death.
50. JOHN: Why don't you put a sweater on, for goodness sake.
51. FREYMAN: I hate to wear sweaters around the house. And anyhow I haven't got one to match this dress. (PLEAD) Harry...go down and put more coal on the fire, will you?
52. JOHN: I just did go down...I just finished putting coal on...
53. FREYMAN: Well...the radiator's only luke warm. Feel it.
54. JOHN: All right, all right. I'll shovel on more coal. We've used half a ton already...(PROJECTING) It's worse'n being a fire-man on a railroad.
55. SOUND: SUDDEN LOUD WIND
56. FREYMAN: (CALLING) Harry! Harry has that kitchen door blown open again?
57. JOHN: Yeah! Wait, I'll close it.
58. FREYMAN: Hurry up...it's freezing!
59. SOUND: DOOR CLOSE...WIND OUT.
60. JOHN: (BACK AGAIN) That door doesn't stay shut worth a darn.
61. FREYMAN: It blew open and stayed open all night last night...the house was cold as ice when I got up.
62. JOHN: I must fix the lock on that door. I'll do it...Sunday.
63. FREYMAN: Harry, feel this radiator. It's steaming hot at the bottom, and it's cold at the top.

64. JOHN: Must be air in it.
65. FREYMAN: How could air get in it?
66. JOHN: I don't know. There's supposed to be a key around here somewhere...to let the air out of the radiators.
67. FREYMAN: There is?
68. JOHN: Yep. Where do you suppose it is?
69. FREYMAN: Goodness, I don't know. I never remember seeing a key to the radiator.
70. JOHN: Well it's got to be around here someplace. This room won't warm up until we let that air out of these radiators.
71. FREYMAN: It's not behind the clock. It's...not under the candlesticks. I simply don't know, Harry...would any other key do? (FADING)
There're plenty of keys around here.
72. JOHN: Well...that's the way it is with the Harry Spices on a cold winter day. Finally...they adjourn into the library, the one room that's warm. In fact, it's very warm indeed.
73. FREYMAN: Harry...
74. JOHN: Yes dear...
75. FREYMAN: I'm stifling.
76. JOHN: It's nice and warm in here all right.
77. FREYMAN: Let's open the window just a tiny bit...shall we?
78. JOHN: Open the window? Do you want to heat the whole outdoors?
79. FREYMAN: Oh that's silly, Harry. Just a little bit won't hurt. That radiator's just too hot.
80. JOHN: Well, O.K. (GRUNT) Here goes! That better?
81. SOUND: WINDOW UP
82. FREYMAN: Much better. I don't understand this house, Harry. First we're too hot, and then we're too cold.

83. JOHN: I don't know. All I know is that at this rate we're running out of coal, and it's going to be just like last year. We'll be all out by February, and have to sit around the toaster to keep warm.
84. FREYMAN: Oh yes, remember last year. We thought the coal would never come. Harry, I don't hear other people complain. What do you suppose they do about it.
85. JOHN: I dunno. Wonder what George does.
86. FREYMAN: He puts up storm windows.
87. JOHN: Well, don't look at me. You wouldn't have 'em. You said it made the house look bulky. (SIGH) Well, anyhow, I ought to go over one of these days and talk to him.
88. SOUND: BIG BLOW AGAIN.
89. FREYMAN: (OVER SOUND) Hey! There goes that kitchen door again! Harry, we've just got to get it fixed! We've just got to!
(FADE INTO SOUND)
90. SOUND: HOLD WIND AND FADE OUT.
91. JOHN: (A LITTLE SHEEPISH) So frankly, George old man, I don't know what we're gonna do....I mean, there's a heavy frost outside right now.
92. GEORGE: Well, now I don't see why you two can't stay over here at our house tonight.
93. JOHN: Gosh, that's great, George!
94. GEORGE: How long's the furnace been on the blink?
95. JOHN: Well, it's not so much that as we're waiting for the fuel to come. We....sort of ran short. Look here, George...you have the exact same heating system as I do. And I never see you go down to the cellar. I'm down there in mine all the time, and I know very well I use twice the coal you do.

96. FREYMAN: (CALLING...WORRIED) Harry! Harry! (LITTLE LAUGH ON MIKE)
Oh, there you are. Hello, George!
97. JOHN: George says we can stay over here at his house tonight.
Oh,
98. FREYMAN: /aren't you a dear! They promised to deliver the coal tomorrow
And that part for the furnace ought to be here any day.
99. GEORGE: Part for the furnace?
100. JOHN: Oh, yes. I guess I kinda got mad at the furnace. You know,
sort of short-tempered because the fire went out. Guess it
was my fault in the first place.
101. FREYMAN: Sure...he got impatient and shook it too hard.
102. JOHN: Look, George, what I was just asking you...how does it happen
that you don't seem to have any trouble heating your house.
You know, I've been thinking of changing my whole heating
system.
103. GEORGE: Oh, Harry you'd have the same trouble no matter what kind
you had...coal, oil, wood, any kind. Your
of fuel system/big trouble is that you aren't economical and
careful about conserving heat.
/You've got to watch it and take care of it...no matter what
system you use.
104. JOHN: Yes, I suppose you're right.
105. FREYMAN: George, we can't tell you how much we appreciate your letting
us stay over here. (CHANGE TONE) Come on, kitty! Kitty
was freezing to death too. You don't mind if she sleeps in
our room, do you?
106. GEORGE: Uh...no...no indeed.
107. FREYMAN: Poor little kitty...
108. JOHN: And I...ah...I brought the goldfish over, George. Couldn't
stand thinking of them tomorrow frozen solid in a cake of ice.
(APOLOGETIC LAUGH) You know how it is.
109. GEORGE: Oh, yes...sure!

1. The first thing I noticed when I stepped out of the plane was the cold air.

It was a relief after the warm, stuffy cabin.

I had heard that the weather was bad, but it was perfect.

The view from the window was breathtaking. The city below was a patchwork of green and grey.

I had heard that the city was beautiful, and it lived up to the hype.

The streets were clean and the people were friendly.

I had heard that the food was good, and it was true. The restaurant I went to was excellent.

The service was impeccable. The waiter was attentive and polite.

I had heard that the hotel was nice, and it was.

The room was comfortable and the bed was soft.

I had heard that the city was safe, and it was. I felt secure throughout my stay.

The people were friendly and helpful. I felt like I was in a second home.

The weather was perfect. It was just what I needed.

I had heard that the city was beautiful, and it was.

The view from the hotel was amazing. I could see the city from above.

The food was

the best I

had ever

had.

The

service

was

great.

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110. FREYMAN: George you're the dearest thing to rescue us. Harry dear, hurry over to the house and get those two potted palms, and the plants in the kitchen window. I'd just hate to see them freeze.
111. JOHN: (OFF) Okay...be right back.
112. FREYMAN: (CALLING) And try and slam the kitchen door so it'll stay shut this time dear, will you. (FADING) George, we do have the worst time. (OUT)
- PAUSE:
113. FREYMAN: (SLEEPY AND LOW) Harry?
114. JOHN: Hmmm...
115. FREYMAN: Are you awake?
116. JOHN: Yep.
117. FREYMAN: What's a "clinker"?
118. JOHN: Oh, it's a...a big lump of burned coals run together. Didn't you hear George explain about it?
119. FREYMAN: We...shouldn't have them in the furnace?
120. JOHN: Guess it doesn't help the fire any. Like a lot of things I seem to be doing. George says I shake the furnace too much.
121. FREYMAN: He does?
122. JOHN: (MEDITATING) Let's see if I can remember all that stuff. He said I should keep the fire deeper'n I do...that it's more economical than a skimpy fire. Told me how to bank it up at night.
123. FREYMAN: Did he say anything about the coal gas smell we always seem to have in our house.
124. JOHN: Yep, that's my fault too. Should leave a little spot of glowing coals when I put new coals on. Burns up the gas.

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125. FREYMAN: I see...
126. JOHN: Now what else...Oh yes, the furnace should be cleaned out. No matter what kind of heat you have, he says, the furnace should be cleaned out. That saves fuel too.
127. FREYMAN: And then, Harry, there is weather stripping around all George's doors and windows.
128. JOHN: Yes, I noticed. He was saying...and I guess he's right because he keeps account of everything they spend...he said that since he stopped up the air leaks around the doors and windows, he uses 25 percent less fuel. A fourth less coal. Imagine that.
129. FREYMAN: We could save a little money, I guess, if we did it.
130. JOHN: If we did it. We're going to do it right away, and that's no kidding. He even has his attic insulated.
131. FREYMAN: I guess they're thriftier than we are. What else did he say in his lecture? I got so sleepy, I thought he'd never stop.
132. JOHN: Well, he says I keep the cellar too hot...that I ought to insulate around the pipes and so forth. Says that heat is wasted in the cellar.
133. FREYMAN: Mmmmm...hmmmmmm...
134. JOHN: Says he noticed one time that the grates in our furnace were warped and sort of cracked. That's supposed to waste coal too. (SIGH)
135. FREYMAN: Whatever grates are, I suppose we could get new ones.
136. JOHN: I suppose.
137. FREYMAN: (YAWN) Well...one thing I never thought of is to close the fireplace vent when we haven't a fire. I didn't think wind would go out of its way to come all the way down a chimney.

138. JOHN: Yes...and little things like closing the door to the attic stairs on account of heat rises, and gets wasted up there.
139. FREYMAN: That George. Thinks of everything. He said we should lock all the windows because that makes them tighter. I don't know what he thinks about us and that back door.
140. JOHN: Oh, we'll show him we can be just as cagey as he is. We'll get things fixed up.
141. FREYMAN: Well, there's one thing we're not going to do.
142. JOHN: (YAWN) What's that?
143. FREYMAN: (THEY ARE GETTING SLEEPY) We're not taking off the radiator covers.
144. JOHN: Oh...aren't we?
145. FREYMAN: No we're not. Those metal covers make the radiators look very pretty, and I just can't stand the sight of bare-looking unartistic radiators in a room.
146. JOHN: We'll see.
147. FREYMAN: I don't care if they do keep down the heat...
148. JOHN: (SLEEPILY) We'll talk about that in the morning.
149. FREYMAN: Oh I know you, Harry Spice. That's the way you win all arguments. By going to sleep. But...(FADING OUT COMPLETELY) this is one time I am going to have my way. We are absolutely going to leave those radiator covers on.(etc.etc.etc.)
150. ANNCR: And so far, deep into the night. But whoever wins, it looks as though the Spices have found out a thing or two about conserving heat. And here are Mrs. Freyman and Johnny ...as themselves...to tell you about it.
151. FREYMAN: Well, Johnny...I feel quite sure that our friends got right down to business after that, and started to heat their home efficiently...and economically.

152. JOHN: I'm quite sure they did, Mrs. Freyman.
153. FREYMAN: And CONSUMER TIME friends...we'd like to say again...that many of you in many parts of the country...may find it difficult to get all the fuel you want this winter...or not all of your favorite kind. The important thing is...not to wait, but to buy now. If you can't get the size or the kind of coal you've been used to, talk it over with your dealer and if he advises you not to put it off...and to get what you can right away, you'd better do it, and not be caught short when cold weather comes.
154. JOHN: Then remember too, don't wait until the oil tank is dry, or the coal bin empty, to order more fuel. Your dealer hasn't yet been able to get new trucks, or new tires, and you may have to wait a good long time for deliveries.
155. FREYMAN: And above all...it's always economical and smart to conserve heat, and save fuel. You might be able to save a fourth, or a third, of your fuel costs, just by observing a few simple rules.
156. JOHN: If you have a thermostat, set it at a minimum temperature for comfort. Don't overheat your house, and when you're away from home, turn the thermostat down a few degrees. Of course, turn it down at night.
157. FREYMAN: And shut off radiators or registers in rooms you're not using.
158. JOHN: Anyhow, there are hundreds of little things to do, to keep your house warm this winter...and to save you money on fuel.
159. FREYMAN: Such as the things we learned about from good neighbor George today, Johnny.

160. JOHN: Absolutely!
161. FREYMAN? And now...just a couple of words about next week's program.
162. JOHN:
163. JOHN: So be with us next week, for another edition of...
164. SOUND: CASH REGISTER
165. ANNCR: CONSUMER TIME!
166. SOUND: CASH REGISTER...CLOSE DRAWER.
167. ANNCR: CONSUMER TIME, written by Christine Kempton, is presented by the U. S. Department of Agriculture through the facilities of the National Broadcasting Company and its affiliated independent stations. It comes to you from Washington, D. C. This broadcast period for CONSUMER TIME has been made available as a public service.
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